



Representative Louise M. Slaughter
Chairwoman, House Committee on Rules
Representing New York's 28th District

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rep. Slaughter Urges NYS Department of Environmental Conservation To Reconsider Plan To Transport Toxic Waste To Niagara County

Niagara Falls, NY - Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Chairwoman of the House Committee on Rules, today urged the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to reconsider their plan to transport nearly 75,000 tons of toxic waste to Niagara County in a letter to New York State Commissioner Pete Grannis

Following is the letter Congresswoman Slaughter sent to Commissioner Grannis.

Dear Commissioner Grannis,

I write to express my opposition to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) plan to transport nearly 75,000 tons of toxic waste to Niagara County from a former General Electric salvage yard in Queensbury, New York. The waste that will be coming to Niagara County contains Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), which at its current state of greater than 50 parts per million, is extremely toxic.

I understand the DEC only considered landfilling this waste in Niagara County after the agency determined that landfilling would cost about 31% less (\$8.4 million) than thermal desorption, which is a safer and less environmentally hazardous disposal alternative. Yet while the landfilling scenario may save the DEC some money, it will cost Niagara County significantly.

Implementing this plan would mean that 3,000 additional trucks, at a rate of 15 trucks per day, would drive through Niagara County carrying this toxic waste near schools, homes, and businesses. Concerns that the public may be needlessly exposed to these hazardous materials in transport is understandable based on recent examples during which similar truck transports accidentally spilled contaminated waste and deviated from established "safe" transportation routes.

Moreover, it is foolish to bring more waste into Niagara County when at the same time we are working tirelessly to remediate and cleanup countless contaminated sites that presently mar the region. In today's world, where technology is constantly advancing and the most responsible solution is not always the cheapest, we must advance efforts to reduce the landfilling of hazardous waste.

Therefore, I urge you to reconsider your plan and urge the DEC not to ship this PCB laden waste to Niagara County. Rather, a solution should be developed that is both safe and clean in order to reduce any harmful effects that hazardous waste will pose to the residents of, not only Niagara County, but all of New York State. I appreciate your consideration of my request and look forward to your response.

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